

PRESS RELEASE

House Bill 426

On May 5, 2008, Governor Sonny Perdue signed into law House Bill 426 (HB 426). House Bill 426 amends Code Section 32-6-200 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. This bill can be read in its entirety at the following web site:

www.legis.ga.gov/legis/2007_08/fulltext/hb426.htm

HB 426 requires:

- Local school districts to survey its established school bus routes and to submit to the Department of Transportation a list of roadway-railroad crossings that do not have active warning devices on an established route.
- Defines the term “active warning devices” to mean automated control gates, lights, and warning bells, used singly or in any combination.
- Requires local school districts to submit the survey information to the Department each year no later than September 1.
- Requires that each school district exercise best efforts to minimize the number of established school bus routes crossing roadway-railroad crossings that do not have active warning devices.
- Requires the Department to use this survey information to assist in prioritizing roadway-railroad crossings for upgrade to active warning devices.

House Bill 426 becomes effective January 1, 2009.

From this law, the Georgia Department of Transportation recommends local school districts perform the following:

- First and foremost, minimize the number of bus routes that cross a roadway-railroad crossing without active warning devices.
- Secondly, submit the required route survey information no later than September 1, 2009 and by September 1 of each year thereafter.
- Finally, please include the total number of buses that use the roadway-railroad crossing that has no active warning devices.

Please send the survey data to the following:

Mr. Jeff Baker, P.E.
State Utilities Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
10th Floor
600 West Peachtree Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Note: We have attached a form that the local school district can use to compile the survey information.

School Bus Routes that Utilize Railroad Crossings without Active Warning Devices

Local School District Name: _____

County: _____

County Road, City Street, or State Route	Route Number	Route Name	Crossing Inventory Number	Railroad Name	Existing Signage (i.e. Crossbucks, Stop Signs, or Yield Signs)	Number of route crossings per day	Does Bus Have Passengers When Utilizing Crossing (yes or no)

Submitted By:

Print Name

Date

Phone Number